

PN 6/82

P1 678

**NRO**  
**INVENTORY**

National Park Service  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building, 1920  
2001 Sixth Ave.  
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

North Mowich Trail Shelter

5. ORIGINAL USE

Public Trail  
Shelter

7. CLASSIFICATION

9. RATING

10. DATE

1934

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

North Mowich River C-253 (MX-301)

6. PRESENT USE

Same

8.

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

11. REGION

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD

OTHER

NAME

4. CITY/VICINITY

North Mowich River

COUNTY

Pierce

STATE

Washington

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

NPS/Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Log frame, one-room, one-story, square plan trail shelter; "saltbox" (lean-to) design; cedar shake roof over projecting whole log purlins; open front facade; whole log walls; post, beam, and bracket supports at front corners; rear corner saddle notching; log sill foundation; unfinished interior; 1-1/2 x 6 tongue and groove floor.

A 1924 map of Mount Rainier National Park shows a trail shelter between the North and South Forks of the Mowich River. The structure is no longer extant. This trail shelter, built in 1934 by the CCC (Thompson, 1981), is located on the Wonderland Trail on the north bank of the North Mowich River. Two other shelters constructed more recently are in the vicinity of this shelter. The supervisory landscape architect said, "It is a model of good log construction" (Thompson 1981:17). The shelter measures 14' x 14', with a floor size of 210 square feet. Floor to ridge beam is eight feet. The open front facade is 6'4" x 14'. Structural condition is one of deterioration. There is excessive log rot, especially on the projecting log ends at the corners. There is need for new base logs, especially on the east (rear) and north facades. The interior is very dirty. The wood floor has numerous holes, and there is need for a new roof.

14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)

☐ YES

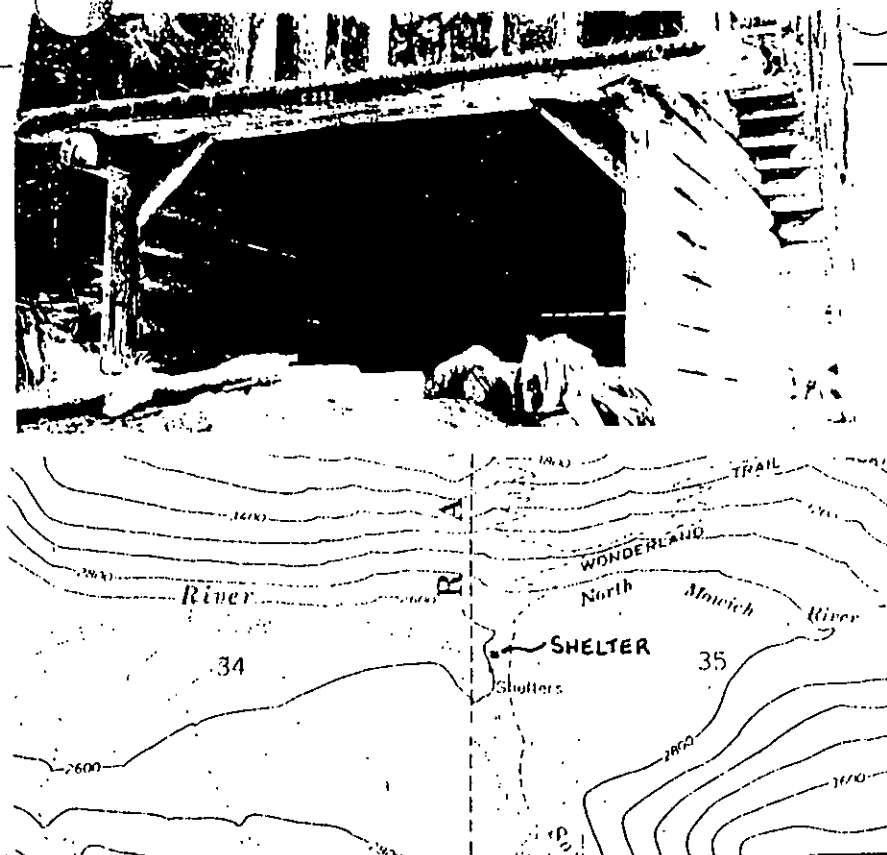
☐ NO

☒ UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE

The North Mowich River trail shelter (C-253) is one of the oldest backcountry shelters in the park and one of the numerous structures built by the CCC. It is one of the numerous trail shelters constructed on the popular Wonderland Trail, a policy begun under Superintendent Roger W. Toll (1919-20) and expanded during the superintendency of Major O. A. Tomlinson (1932-41).

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED ☒ YES, UNLIMITED  
☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER-1 ☐ HAER ☒ NPS ☐ STATE  
☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Building file MX-301, Maintenance Division, Mount Rainier National Park. Building data--photos 1954, 1962; Drawing, 1962.

Erwin N. Thompson, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, Historic Resource Study. (Denver: Historic Preservation Branch, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1981).

22. INVENTORIED BY  
David Harvey

AFFILIATION  
MURA Cultural Resources Survey

DATE  
9/1/82